Art Wrapup: Gallop over to AS220 to see the paintings

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Gallery and museum exhibitions seem to be springing up like May flowers this month. With everything on tap from photography and architecture (see above) to painting and sculpture (see below), the only problem for local art lovers is trying to decide which of the dozens of new exhibits to visit.

Anyone who’s interested in contemporary art should consider visiting the new shows at AS220 and the Community College of Rhode Island (Lincoln campus). Both feature young RISD-trained artists who are still testing the limits of their mediums and materials.

Taggart Aitken, an assistant professor of art at CCRI, makes large ceramic sculptures that break every rule in the Ceramics 101 handbook. They are off-balance, roughly finished and somewhere between crude and primal in appearance. What’s more, they don’t perform any useful household functions, such as brewing tea or holding soup. That some of the sculptures have a vague resemblance to pieces of furniture (one work is called Podium, for example) only underscores their roughness and rawness. They look like refugees from a petrified furniture warehouse. (Through May 2 at CCRI’s Flanagan Campus, Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln; 333-7154 for hours).

At AS220, the alternative performance and gallery space in downtown Providence, visitors will find the paintings of Katie Antonelli Silva and Mark Goodkin. Silva seems to bounce between two styles, one dreamy, the other bordering on the nightmarish. Of special note are her horse studies, which are confident and assured.

Goodkin paints over printed or photographic images in bright, sometimes garish, colors. The result is a kind of hallucinogenic realism, with everyday images taking on an eerie unreality. (Through Monday at AS220, 71 Richmond St., Providence. Hours are today and tomorrow, 7-11 p.m.; Sun., 2-5. Weekdays by appointment.)

Among the shows opening this weekend: an exhibition of contemporary neon and holographic artworks at Gallery 7 (7th floor of the Doran Building, 150 Chestnut St., Providence. Hours: Fri. and Sat., 5-9. Opens tomorrow) and a survey of arts and crafts by Native American artists at the Hera Gallery (327 Main St., Wakefield. Hours: Tues.-Fri., noon-3; Sat., 10-4; Sun., noon-3. Opens Sunday).

Also on the art circuit this weekend is a benefit auction sponsored by Southeastern Massachusetts University. Scheduled for tomorrow night at 7, it will raise money for student scholarships and visiting artists. For more information, call (508) 999-8546.

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PODIUM. a ceramic sculpture by Taggart Aitken at CCRI in Lincoln.

— BILL VAN SICLEN